

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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DEQ Schedules Public Meeting for Toston Smelter Reclamation Project

Helena - The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will conduct a public meeting to present information and receive public comment on the proposed cleanup of the Toston Smelter site.

The public meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 26, 2008 at the Toston Fire Hall, Broadwater County. The public is encouraged to attend and will have an opportunity to comment.

The DEQ Mine Waste Cleanup Bureau is proposing to reclaim severe heavy metal contamination on site and prevent continued run off of contaminated sediment. The contamination poses a threat to human health and the environment. The contaminants of concern at the site are arsenic and lead.

The site is located approximately one mile south of Toston in Broadwater County. An Expanded Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis has been prepared analyzing five alternatives for mine reclamation at the site.

Following selection of a reclamation alternative, a construction plan will be prepared. Funding for the reclamation project will be provided through a grant from the Federal Office of Surface Mining Control, Reclamation and Enforcement.

The Toston Smelter site is an abandoned gold, lead and silver smelter that operated in the late 1800s. The smelter ceased operation in 1888 and was dismantled in 1899.

For more information about the public meeting or the reclamation project, contact Devin Clary of the DEQ Mine Waste Cleanup Bureau at (406) 841-5029 or djclary@mt.gov. The DEQ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this meeting. If you require an accommodation, please contact Mary Ann Dunwell at (406) 841-5016 or mdunwell@mt.gov.

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